



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 4 2000

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reverend Louis Coleman
Justice Resource Center
1600 Envoy Circle, Suite 1614
Louisville, KY 40229

Dear Reverend Coleman,

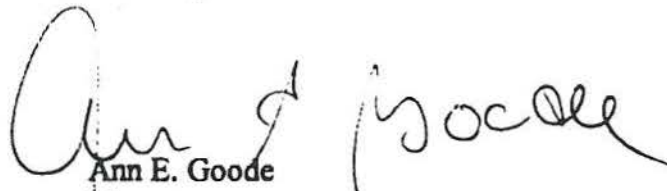
Your June 6, 2000, letter addressed to the White House was referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Your letter raised concerns about the Jefferson County sewage treatment plant that is located in the West End of Louisville, Kentucky. You allege that the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has been dumping untreated sludge in a brick-lined pit in the West Louisville area and odors from the facility permeate the community day and night. Your letter also alleged environmental discrimination by MSD against the African-American community of West Louisville. You have requested that an investigation be conducted into the compliance of the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and the Kentucky Natural Resources Cabinet with the Executive Order on Environmental Justice, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Copies of your letter have been forwarded to the EPA Offices of Environmental Justice, Solid Waste, and Water for their review. OCR is responsible for investigating Title VI complaints that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by recipients of EPA financial assistance. OCR has assigned your letter a Title VI complaint number (3R-00-R4). Pursuant to EPA's Title VI implementing regulations, OCR conducts a preliminary review of Title VI complaints for acceptance, rejection, or referral. 40 CFR § 7.120(d)(1). A complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's Title VI regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120 *et. seq.* First, it must be in writing. Second, it must describe alleged discriminatory acts that, if proven true, may violate EPA's Title VI regulations. Third, it must be timely filed. Fourth, because EPA's Title VI regulations only apply to recipient's of EPA financial assistance, it must identify an EPA recipient that allegedly committed a discriminatory act. A copy of EPA's nondiscrimination regulations is enclosed for your information.

Your complaint is awaiting jurisdictional review by OCR. Once the jurisdictional review is completed, you will be notified by mail. If you should have any questions about your Title VI

complaint, please contact Yasmin Yorker of my staff by telephone at (202) 564-7272, or by e-mail at yorker.yasmin@epa.gov. Mail should be sent to U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely,


Ann E. Goode
Director

Enclosure

cc: John Hankinson, Regional Administrator
EPA Region IV

Anne Heard, Title VI Coordinator
EPA Region IV

Barry Hill, Director
Office of Environmental Justice

Steve Heare, Title VI Coordinator
Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response

Robert Klepp, Title VI Coordinator
Office of Water